

1. Method of transmitting data packets over a channel, the data packets having compressed headers, the method comprising the steps of:

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compressing a header using a context; and

transmitting a number of consecutive update packets, each containing data indicating said context;

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wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

determining the channel quality; and

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setting said number of update packets dependent on the determined channel quality.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining the channel quality includes evaluating a measurement value of the block error rate in the channel.

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3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining the channel quality includes evaluating a measurement value of the signal-to-noise ratio.

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4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining the channel quality comprises the step of determining whether a NACK message is received.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein:

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a sequence of subsequences of data packets is transmitted, each subsequence including a number of consecutive update packets;

the number of consecutive update packets of only the first subsequence being set according to the determined channel quality; and

the number of update packets in the following subsequences is subsequently decreased by a predetermined number.

6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting a number of consecutive non-update packets not containing data indicating said context, wherein the total number of update and non-update packets transmitted during a context update phase is set according to the Round Trip Time.

7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

detecting a silent period;

transmitting a data packet not having a correctly compressed header;

receiving a NACK message; and

setting the Round Trip Time to the time difference between transmitting and receiving.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting a number of consecutive non-update packets not containing data indicating said context, said number of non-update packets being determined based on codec properties and said number of update packets.

9. Apparatus for transmitting data packets over a channel, the data packets having compressed headers, the apparatus comprising:

a compressor for compressing a header using a context;

transmission means for transmitting a number of consecutive update packets, each containing data indicating said context;

means for determining the channel quality; and

control means for setting said number of update packets dependent on the determined channel quality.

5 10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said means for determining the channel quality includes means for evaluating a measurement value of the block error rate in the channel.

10 11. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said means for determining the channel quality includes means for evaluating a measurement value of the signal-to-noise ratio.

15 12. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said means for determining the channel quality comprises means for determining whether a NACK message is received.

20 13. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

a sequence of subsequences of data packets is transmitted, each subsequence including a number of consecutive update packets;

the number of consecutive update packets of only the first subsequence being set according to the determined channel quality; and

25 the number of update packets in the following subsequences is subsequently decreased by a predetermined number.

30 14. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said transmission means is arranged for transmitting a number of consecutive non-update packets not containing data indicating said context, wherein the total number of update and non-update packets transmitted during a context update phase is set according to the Round Trip Time.

15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said control means is further arranged for detecting a silent period, transmitting a data packet not having a

